

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 3. 1712.

I Told you last Year of a *Highlander* who had the *Second Sight*, and who had publish'd what he calls a Prophecy, in which he foretold the Death of the *Dauphin* of France and the Emperor, some Months before they came to pass.

I hope I need make no farther Declaration of my own Opinion, and how far I do or do not lay any Stress upon such Things as these; I would do by them as I do by Dreams, viz. Neither lay too much Stress upon them, or too little; but if I should err in either of these Points, I will mislead no-body else, and therefore I'll only state the Matter of Fact, referring the Reader

to the unknown Author, whose Book seems able to speak for itself.

Whatever I thought of him, on Account of what he said last Year, and I must confess I had very odd Notions about him then, I must own I have more now——It is true, that the distance of Place, from whence that little Traff comes, making it long in coming hither, the People were apt to cry out, O, 'tis a Sham, it is done here, tho' I gave undoubted Evidence of the contrary, and as I have always had a Knowledge of it in Time, tho' it could not come hither so soon, that Objection therefore is of no Force to me, whatever it may be

be to other People; but being oblig'd to mention it now again, I shall, upon that Account, take another Course with your Suspicions.

For my Remarks being chiefly on what is yet to come, rather than what is past, tho' that is Surprizing also, I am the less Solicitous to anticipate the Objections of the Incredulous; It is true, that he as plainly foretold the Mortality in the Royal Family of France, as can be express'd, his Words are these.

The Dutchess of Burgundy seems to be pointed at by Death, and a great French General Also.

In another Paragraph of his Prophecy for January, he says expressly;

A Great Person in this Nation, and two in France, shall yield to Fate that Month.

If this was Printed in January, and the Dutchess of Burgundy, that is, the Dauphiness, and the Marechal Catinae dyed both in March — Then something must be in our Highlander more than I understand.

However, I omit this, I say, because 'tis past, and I expect no Faith in this Generation for any Thing, much less for Prophecies and Predictions; but what is before us, I cannot but say is very odd, think of it what you please, viz. That he tells us expressly how long the Peace shall be in Hand, when it shall be closed, in what imperfect State it is every Month, and shall be at last; who shall most eagerly Oppose it, and what the Effects, and yet says it shall be a Peace at last too.

He refers the Conclusion of it to October next, and then calls it a *seeming Conclusion*, adding, that Jealousies and Uneasinesses continue; all the Nations standing with Sword in Hand, ready to break out into a New War.

He tells us, (for May) Now they begin the Campaign; some Fight, and some Treat; some both Treat and Fight;

and some, who talk as big as any, neither Fight nor Treat.

Nay, by his Way of Writing, one would have thought that he had Knowledge of this New Method of Trifling; for I cannot call it *Treating*, which has taken up now about seven Weeks Time in the Surface of Things, and yet cannot be adjust whether they shall proceed by Writing or Conference: In his second Prophecy he says expressly.

The Meetings of the Plenipotentiaries have not been able to adjust Matters.

In another Place,

Those that Consent to Treat, do not all do it with a Design of Peace.

I fear he is too much a Witch in this Article, and has play'd the *Second-Sight* upon the German Counsels, for any body may see by the present Measures taken on that Side, they came unwillingly into the Treaty, and seem much more willing to put an End to the Treaty than to the War.

His third Prophecy Respects this Month, when speaking of Peace he says thus.

All the Proceedings on the Treaty seem to tend to a Separate Accommodation, as if every Branch were to look to itself; they begin to act with less Confidence and less Satisfaction in one another than formerly; France makes Court here and blusters there, just as its Interest guides; Britain and Holland hold together still, tho' great Endeavours on many Sides, to Separate and Disjoin them.

This to be said near three Months ago, has something very strange in it, nay, if it had been said but a Month ago; and the Book has been publish'd here, I believe a Month, it is Surprizing, I need repeat no more of that.

His Accounts of other Affairs are no less Unaccountable, of which I shall give but a few hints.

1. *He gives such Accounts of the Affairs of the Turks and Muscovites, of the Swedes and Poles, of the War in Pomerania, and of the Emperor's Management, that tho' they are not yet come to pass, are, I confess, Surprising; some of those Things being so far in View, that they seem unavoidable; but two Things I cannot omit, as to Death of Great People, thus.*

In May he says, thus; Death gives a great Blow in England, which will have an Effect upon the Publick Measures; but the Queen is Safe, and the Hopes of her Enemies are not so high as before.

In June he says, thus; Death Threatens a Great Person in the Hannover Court; but Britain having no less than four immediate Succeeding Heirs there, to her Crown, need not fear having any Omission of making a New Settlement of the Estate.

I have no more to say to these Things, I refer the Reader for the rest to the little Book itself, which is but one Sheet of Paper, and which the Publisher of this has, it seems from North Britain to sell, in which there is much more to this purpose; my mentioning it at this Time, is occasion'd by the View, I think, we all have of a Political protracted Treaty, a Peace and no Peace, a War and no War, which, in its present State seems to me to tend to the Distraction of the Nations round us, and of our selves too, and in which, as I said in my last, Ceremony destroys Substance, and the Politicians of Europe trifle with the Fate of Nations, but to return to our High-Lander; he has one Article of his own Country, which is worth observing, tho' he adjourns it to November next.

Scotland feels great Disorders about this Time, and Things look very dark on that Side; some Popular Riots happen, as in

usual in Dissenters's Colonies, before more publick Commotions happen.

I name this the rather, because, in this, the Predicator cannot be acknowledged, for even while this is Writing, my Letters give an Account of a Riot already hapned there, viz. at *Ausseraerdagh* in *Perthshire*, where on an Attempt to read the *English Service*, at the Burial of an Inkeeper, it was oppos'd on one Side, and push'd at on the other, till the People fell to Blows, and some Blood has been drawn, as I am told already in that Quarrel; God grant it may be the last, tho' I do not hear any are dead, yet many by my Account are sore hurt.

And I cannot close this Paper better, than to remind the Gentlemen who have been so warm for a Toleration in Scotland, of what I have often inculcated in Publick as well as in private, viz. That a Toleration would Ruin the Episcopal Interest there, and break the Dissenters all to pieces; the Reason is this:

The Dissenters in Scotland, generally speaking, are honest, profess'd, open avow'd *Jacobites*; this they knew right well, who strove to have the late Bill pass'd, without obliging them to swear to, or pray for the Queen; but this failing, pray what good does the Toleration do in Scotland?—All the Episcopal People, that will swear to, or pray for the Queen, are in Churches; and such as are of that Side may join with them all over Scotland; all those that will do neither of these, are Dissenters, and have set up Meeting-Houses, and now you have Tolerated them, And what then? Do they thank you for it? Will they accept of it? Will you make their Ministers swear to the Queen, or pray for the Queen? Yes, you may say the Act requires it—But they won't do it—And if they will, their People will not hear them, but will set up others that will refuse—And what then? Why then say you the Law will suppress them; very well! then they are Persecuted, and who is it Persecutes them then? I hope

I hope you won't let the Presbyterians persecute them then, that can't be; it must be yourselves; so the Toleration is a fine spot of New-Work, and you will be caught in your own Snare; Toleration is given to them that won't accept of it, and the Swearing Episcopal People, must Persecute the Non-Jurant Party; so the Presbyterians, to your great Mortification, will be free of the Scandal, as well as of the trouble of Persecution.

The very same Thing is the Case of the English Liturgy, for not one in five of the Dissenters there will meddle with it; and if my Account of this New Rabble, or Riot, or Quarrel abovesaid in *Außeraerdigh* be

true, the Reading the Liturgy at the Grave of the Dead Person was refused by an Honest Dissenter, tho' Episcopal, and oppos'd by such as were generally, if not all Episcopal, as what they resolv'd not to comply with.

If, then, these Gentlemen will have the English Liturgy-Brethed in Scotland, they must seek not an Act of Parliament Enacting that they MAY use it, but an Act, that they must and shall ——— And then it may soon be seen, whether the People will Comply, or whether all the Axes, Gibbets, or Stakes in Scotland can bring them to it or no.

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